

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02603 130112Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ICA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02 TRSE-00

COME-00 OIC-02 AGRE-00 SP-02 EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 H-01

L-03 /115 W

-----036881 130455Z /13

R 130030Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0458

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2603

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN, SN, US

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

REF: A) STATE 147474, B) SINGAPORE 2260

1. JUDGING FROM STATE REFTEL, USG IS UNLIKELY TO UNDERTAKE ANY REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR ASEAN IN WHICH SINGAPORE MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST. GOS SUGGESTION FOR ELECTRONICS TRAINING INSTITUTE HAS ALREADY INFORMALLY BEEN REJECTED AND REFTEL STATES THAT SHIPPING AND PORTS PROPOSALS (FROM WHICH SINGAPORE WOULD IN ANY CASE DERIVE LITTLE BENEFIT SINCE SINGAPORE PORT IS ONE OF MOST EFFICIENT IN WORLD) CAN PROBABLY NOT BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED. GOS DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH BY WAY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE AS RESULT OF US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL BUT WILL HARDLY BE ABLE TO HELP NOTICING THAT IT WOULD BE TOTALLY LEFT OUT OF OUR REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN.

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2. AS NOTED REFTEL, SINGAPORE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE ON ITS OWN NEEDS AND MERITS. WE FEEL WE MUST RAISE THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, OF IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PROJECTS FROM WHICH SINGAPORE WILL NOT BENEFIT AT ALL. SUCH ACTION SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF PAST YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS DURING WHICH WE HAVE TURNED DOWN NEARLY EVERY REQUEST GOS HAS MADE OF US (I-HAWKS, OPIC, TEAR GAS FOR PRISONS)

WHILE GOS HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN VARIOUS WAYS ON P-3 STAGING, MTN, LOS AND SSOD. IT MUST SEEM TO GOS THAT COOPERATION HAS LATELY BECOME A ONE-WAY STREET. SUCH A PERCEPTION WILL OBVIOUSLY INFLUENCE GOS REACTIONS TO ANY FUTURE REQUESTS WE MAY MAKE.

3. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE SOME BENEFIT TO SINGAPORE IN US-ASEAN REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WHILE RECOGNIZING POLICY LIMITATIONS ON TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AID MAY OFFER, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT SINGAPORE HAS NO RURAL POOR TO SPEAK OF AND THAT ANY ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE TO RELATE TO GOS ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS. WE PROPOSE THAT U.S. DELEGATION TO MANILY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TALKS MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO DISCUSS WITH GOS TEAM POSSIBLE PROJECTS THAT MIGHT BENEFIT SINGAPORE. GOS CAN PROBABLY MAKE REASONABLY GOOD CASE FOR ITS ELECTRONICS TRAINING PROPOSAL, SINCE IT WOULD MAINLY BENEFIT SINGAPORE'S EQUIVALENT OF RURAL POOR BY UPGRADING THEIR SKILLS. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE A REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR EXPORT MARKETING IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE, OF COURSE, RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS THIS IDEA MIGHT RAISE INITIALLY WITH U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT BELIEVE IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT GOOD MARKETING TRAINING WOULD ENCOURAGE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO FOCUS THEIR EXPORT AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON PRODUCTS THAT ARE LESS SENSITIVE IN U.S. MARKET. CONCEPT COINCIDES WITH DAS HEGINBOTHAM'S IDEA, EXPLAINED AT SINGAPORE ECON COUNSELORS' MEETING, OF TRYING TO FIND WAYS TO TAILOR LDC PRODUCTION BETTER TO FIT U.S. AND
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OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES' MARKETS. GOS HAS IN FACT FOR SOME TIME TRIED TO PLAN ALONG THESE LINES, AND MARKETING INSTITUTE WOULD PROVIDE TIMELY AND VALUABLE INPUT TO ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.
INGRAHAM

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